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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0084
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0298
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7222
INFO RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY 2493
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY 8045
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY 0864
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 3354

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 000672

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/17/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNESCO](#) [NO](#)
SUBJECT: NORWAY FLOATS IDEA OF NORDIC ALTERNATIVE UNESCO DG
CANDIDATE

REF: SECSTATE 130916

Classified By: Political Counselor Kristen Bauer for reasons 1.4(b) and
(d)

11. (C) Deputy Director of the UN section of the Norwegian
MFA, Lars Petter Henie, has raised concerns about the UNESCO
candidates independently before with poloff. Norway is very
unhappy with the prospect of "an anti-Semite keen on burning
Israeli books" (Henie's words) as DG of UNESCO. In response
to our demarche, Henie said Norway would like to know how the
US would feel about a possible Nordic compromise candidate.
He was unable at this time to share a name with us.

12. (C) Senior Advisor Anne Merchant of the UN Human Rights
section encountered poloff by chance in an MFA hallway, and
added that her perception was that the Egyptian diplomats are
growing more and more powerful at the UN, managing to speak
with increasing frequency not just for the Arab and Muslim
world, but for Africa as well. She was unsure whether the
Egyptians would back down from their support of Hosni, even
given the possible PR headache he could present.
WHITNEY